



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

‘Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over’ campaign results in 1,636 citations for drunken driving

Aggressive 2-week enforcement campaign ran through Labor Day weekend

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 23, 2012) – This year’s “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” enforcement effort, coordinated by the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety (KOHS), resulted in 1,636 citations for drunken driving.

The annual, federally funded campaign, supported by more than 200 state and local law enforcement agencies, was held Aug. 17-Sept. 3.

The campaign’s main objective was to keep drunken drivers off the road. In the process, officers at 594 traffic safety checkpoints throughout the Commonwealth also made 1,485 felony arrests and 1,303 drug arrests. They recovered 1,076 stolen vehicles, apprehended 1,984 fugitives and issued 15,239 seat belt citations and 1,313 child restraint citations. They also cited 10,911 drivers for speeding, 1,520 for reckless driving and 16,825 people for having no proof of automobile insurance or driving on a suspended license.

“The goal of the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign is not to write tickets, but to save lives,” said Transportation Secretary Mike Hancock. “We want to educate the public on the dangers of drunken driving and reduce deaths and injuries along our roadways. It’s an extra benefit when traffic enforcement leads to criminal enforcement.”

Last year, Kentucky recorded over 5,600 crashes related to drugs and alcohol, resulting in 150 deaths and more than 3,000 injuries.

“We’re pleased with the results of this year’s campaign and appreciate the officers who work tirelessly throughout the state to keep our roadways safe,” said Office of Highway Safety Director Bill Bell. “The partnership between all the agencies involved was tremendous. If one life was saved, it was well worth the effort.”

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the number of alcohol-related fatalities declined in the United States from 2009 to 2010. Still, in 2010, more than 10,000 people were killed in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 or higher – the legal threshold for drunken driving.

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